

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, and 6-9 are pending in the present application, claims 3-5 and 10-20 having been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of Applicant's right to refile those claims in a divisional application. The Office Action and cited references have been considered. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicant has cancelled claims 10-20 as being directed to a non-elected invention. Applicant hereby specifically reserves its right to refile these claims in a divisional application.

Claims 5 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, based on an allegation that the phrase "the acknowledgement from the ..." lacked proper antecedent basis.

Claims 1-4, 6, 7 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Stewen (WO 99/22346) in view of Tedesco (U.S. Patent No. 6,282,523). Applicant notes with appreciation that claims 5 and 8 have been indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form. To advance prosecution, and without conceding the merits of the rejection, Applicant has placed claim 5 in independent form, by amending claim 1 to include all of the limitations of claims 3-5. Applicant has also amended the revised claim to provide proper antecedent basis for the term "the acknowledgement...", by changing "the" to -an-. Withdrawal of these two rejections is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendment and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the amendment raises no new issues that would require further consideration

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or search, as it merely places the dependent claim already indicated to be allowable, in independent form, and corrects a minor antecedent basis issue in claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant requests entry of the proposed amendment and reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections of record. Applicant submits that upon entry of the amendment, the application will be in condition for allowance and early notice to this effect is most earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at
202-628-5197

Respectfully submitted,

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